

Amendments to the Specification

In the Title

Please replace the title on page 1 with the following amended title:

~~METHOD AND COMPOSITIONS FOR INCREASING BONE MASS~~ METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR INCREASING BONE MASS

Please replace the paragraph at page 24, lines 8 through 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3 3A-3D is a series of bar chart graphs which illustrate the percentage of Etoposide-induced osteoblast apoptosis versus the log of the concentration of added estrogens 17β -estradiol, 17β -estradiol-BSA, 17α -estradiol, and estratriene-3-ol. Osteoblastic cells derived from murine calvaria were pretreated with the sterols for 1 hour before the addition of the pro-apoptotic agent, etoposide. Apoptosis was determined after 6 hours by trypan blue uptake (Jilka et al, J.Bone and Min. Res. 13:793:802, 1998). *indicates $p < 0.05$ versus etoposide alone, by analysis of variance (ANOVA) (Student-Newman-Keuls method).

Please replace the paragraph at page 24, line 18 through page 25, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 4 4A-4C is a series of bar chart graphs of the inhibition of etoposide-induced apoptosis of osteocytes (MLO-Y4) by 17β -estradiol, 17β -estradiol-BSA, 17α -estradiol, and estratriene-3-ol. Cells were pretreated with the indicated concentrations of the compounds for 1 hour before the addition of the pro-apoptotic agent etoposide. Apoptosis was determined after 6 hours by trypan blue uptake as described in Figure 3. * indicates $p < 0.05$ versus etoposide alone, by ANOVA (Student-Newman-Keuls method).

Please replace the paragraph at page 25, lines 6 through 15 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 5 5A-5D is a series of bar chart graphs that indicates that the anti-apoptotic effect of 17β -estradiol, 17β -estradiol-BSA, 17α -estradiol, and estratriene-3-ol (E-3-ol) on etoposide-induced apoptosis of osteoblasts is abrogated by the estrogen receptor antagonist, ICI182,780.

Osteoblastic cells derived from murine calvaria were pretreated for 1 hour with the pure receptor antagonist ICI182,780 (10^{-7} M) before the addition of the test agents (10^{-8} M). Apoptosis was induced and quantified as described in Figure 3. *indicates $p < 0.05$ versus etoposide alone, by ANOVA (Student-Newman-Keuls method).

Please replace the paragraph at page 25, line 16 through page 26, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 6 6A-6D is a series of bar chart graphs that indicates that the anti-apoptotic effect of 17β -estradiol, 17β -estradiol-BSA, 17α -estradiol, and estratriene-3-ol (E-3-ol) on MLO-Y4 osteocytic cells abrogated by the estrogen receptor antagonist, ICI182,780. MLO-Y4 cells were pretreated for 1 hour with the pure receptor antagonist ICI182,780 (10^{-7} M) before the addition of the test agents (10^{-8} M). Apoptosis was induced and quantified as described in Figure 3. *indicates $p < 0.05$ versus etoposide alone, by ANOVA (Student-Newman-Keuls method).

Please replace the paragraph at page 29, lines 9 through 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure ~~13~~ 13A-13D illustrates the generalized core ring structures with numbered carbons (Figure 13a) 4-ring structure, (Figure 13b) 3 ring-structure, (Figure 13c) 2-ring structure (fused), and (Figure 13d) 2-ring structure (non-fused).